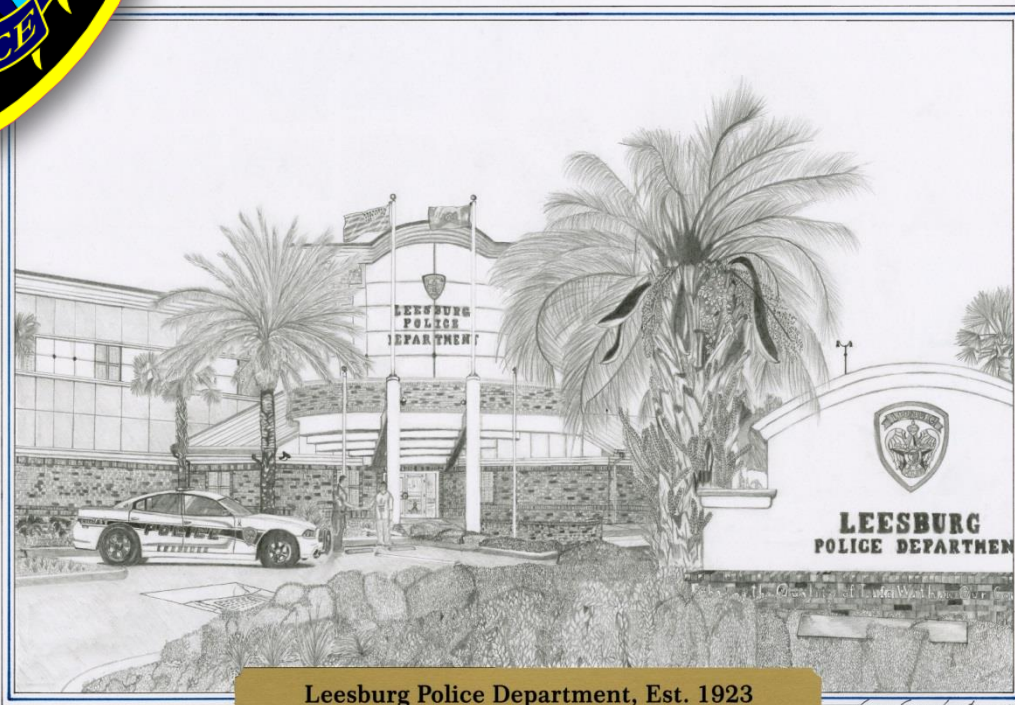


LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



*"To protect and serve with Integrity, Courage,
Compassion and Intelligence."*

115 E Magnolia St, Leesburg, FL 34748

www.LeesburgPolice.com

Tel: 352-728-9860

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Table of Contents

Comments from the Chief	3
Organizational Chart	4
Fallen Officers	5
Mission Statement	6
Budget and Personnel	7
Leesburg Officer of the Year	8
Runner Up For Officer of the Year	9
Monthly Employee Awards	9
CAD Events and Service Calls	10
Part One Crimes	11
Violent Crimes	12
Property Crimes	13
Criminal Arrests	14
Specific Non-Criminal Enforcement	15
Patrol Division	16
Traffic Enforcement	17
SWAT	19
Canine Unit	20
Criminal Investigations	21
Support Services Division	23
Code Enforcement	28
Inside LPD	29





OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

ROBERT W HICKS

2014

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF

As your new Chief of Police, I am pleased to present the 2014 annual report for the Leesburg Police Department. The primary purpose of this report is to provide the community with transparency in government and to show how we meet the challenges that face our community. This report offers a glimpse of the Police Department's operations and presents a detailed summary of police programs implemented, calls for service, arrest data, traffic crash data, DUI data, citation data, and includes revenues collected.

This past year is best described as a year of organizational change. The police department modified its command structure from the top down, completed an internal and external needs assessment, reviewed, revised, and evaluated policies and procedures and created new mission, vision, and value statements. We also initiated several current policing strategies to include Intelligence-Led Policing and enhanced community outreach. These programs have been designed to improve service, increase public safety and awareness, develop community involvement, and improve quality of life. As always, we will continue to ensure that our community has the best law enforcement and public service possible.

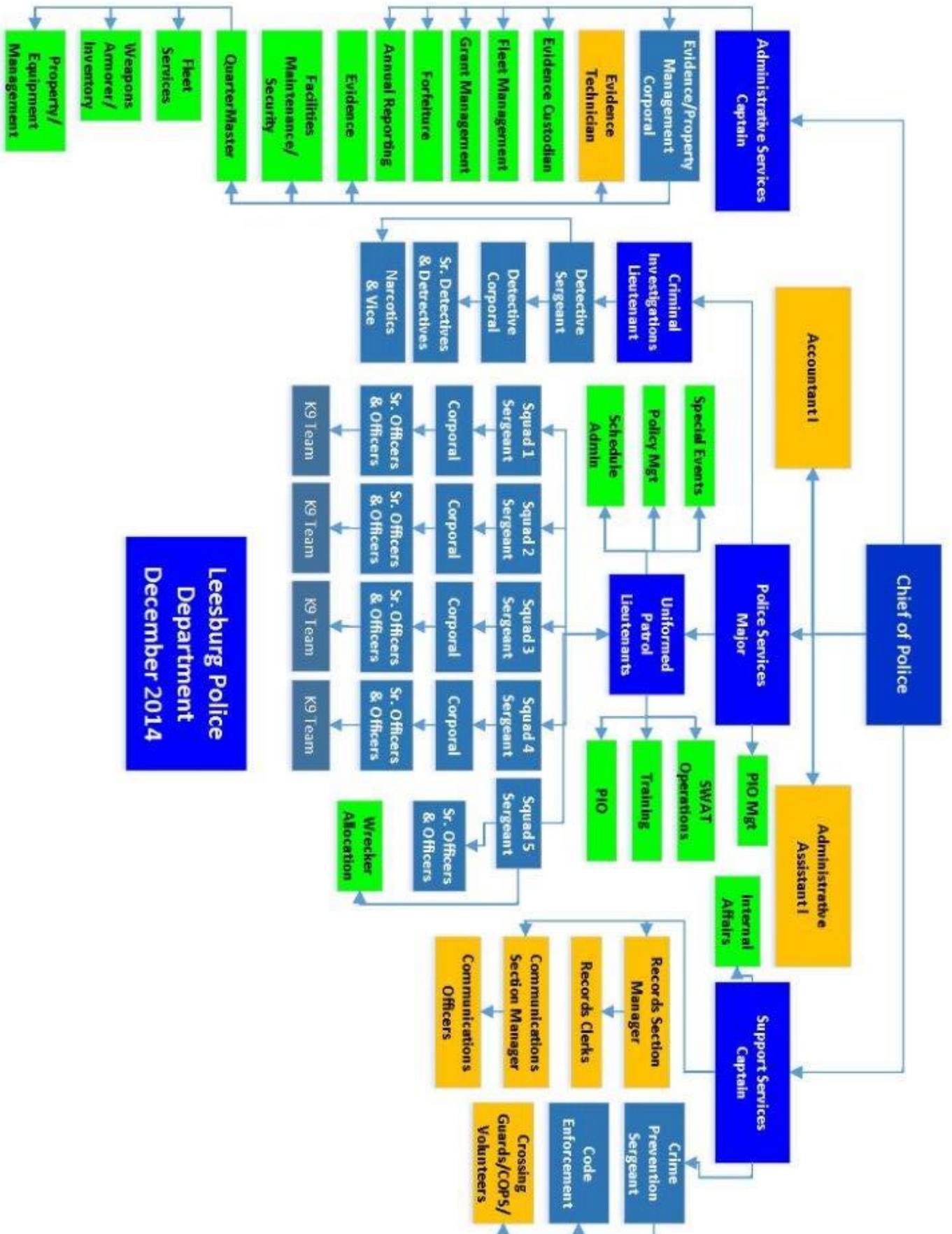
We invite you to become involved with your department in order to continue forging a strong cooperative partnership that is built upon mutual trust and respect. No police department can solve crime or quality of life issues alone. Effective community/police relationships, communication, and engagement are critical components to our success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Hicks".

Robert W Hicks
Chief of Police

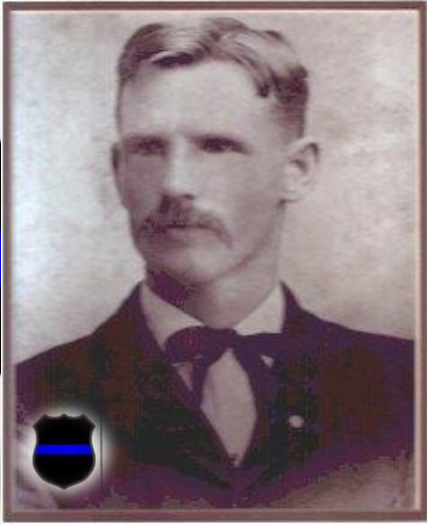
LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Leesburg Police
Department
December 2014

KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY



Chief James Hux
Killed in the Line of Duty
February 13, 1924

Chief Hux, the first police chief for the City of Leesburg was fatally injured while trying to locate a second suspect near an illegal still operation. Chief Hux was shot with a shotgun on the rear portion of his head by the sixteen year old suspect. He was the first officer to give his life "in the line of duty" in Lake County.



Chief Bishop W. Haney
Killed in the Line of Duty
October 10, 1937

Chief Bishop W. Haney and Officer Foy Parrish spotted a reckless driver. As they tried to conduct a traffic stop, the driver sped away. Haney and Parrish eventually stopped the vehicle by forcing it to the curb. As they detained the two occupants, Haney fell unconscious to the ground, bruising his head on the gravel street. Two passers-by drove him to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.



Officer Jesse F. Beerbower
Killed in the Line of Duty
February 13, 1944

Officer Beerbower was fatally injured after being shot six times with a .38 caliber revolver by a suspect who was being arrested for disorderly conduct. Officer Beerbower was the third officer to tragically give his life in the line of duty in Leesburg.



NO PAROLE for Cop Killers. Visit at www.odpm.org



MISSION STATEMENT

The Leesburg Police Department exists to protect and serve its citizens. The department is committed to work in partnership with all citizens for the mutual purpose of promoting safe streets and neighborhoods, reducing the fear of crime, and improving the overall quality of life within the community.

DEPARTMENT VALUES

- We will display honesty, integrity, and sincerity in personal conduct and interpersonal interactions.
- We will obey, honor, and defend the laws of the State of Florida and the United States constitution.
- We will accept full responsibility and accountability for our actions.
- We will do our best, no matter the complexity or simplicity of the task.
- We will treat people with mutual respect and dignity.
- We will have empathy and compassion for others.
- We will use sound, innovative problem-solving techniques. We will both educate and learn from our community, working together to accomplish common goals.

VISION STATEMENT

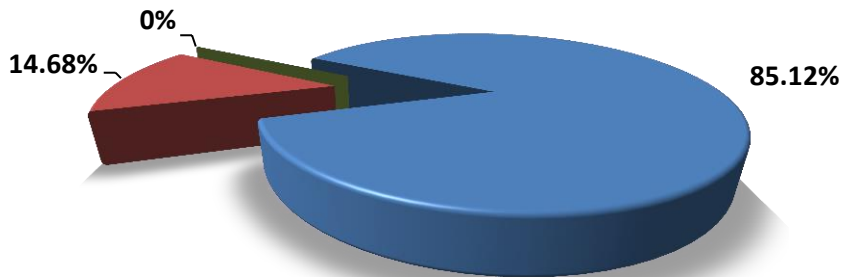
The Leesburg Police Department strives to serve and protect our diverse and dynamic community with fairness, integrity, and respect for the rights of the individual. We resolve to develop a creative, forward-thinking workforce, dedicated to raising our level of excellence to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

DEPARTMENT MOTTO

"To protect and serve with integrity, courage, compassion, intelligence."

2013/2014

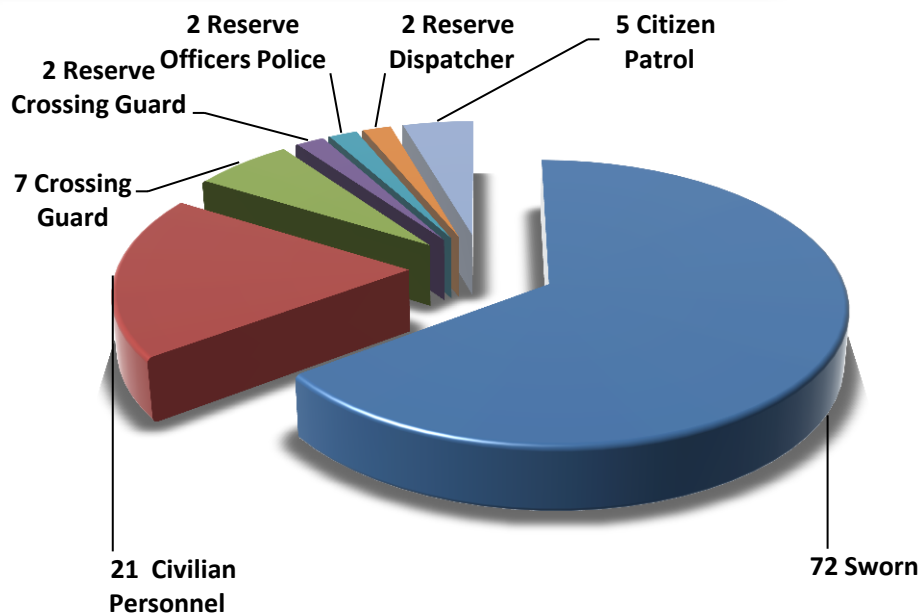
FISCAL BUDGET



- Personnel Services
- Operating Expenses
- Capital Outlay

<i>Personal Services</i>	\$6,671,048
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	\$1,020,782
<i>Capital Outlay</i>	\$0
TOTAL:	\$7,691,830

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL



Total Authorized Personnel - 111



2014 Police Officer of the Year Cpl Travis Whitley



Cpl Travis Whitley was born and raised in Leesburg, Florida and is a proud graduate of Leesburg High School. While attending LHS, Travis was a member of the Leesburg Police Department's Police Explorer Program. While in the program, he received two (2) commendations from the Office of the Chief of Police for actions taken during a serious traffic crash and for his assistance with a fleeing retail theft suspect.

After graduating from high school in 1999, Travis joined the US Air Force, where he proudly served for 7 ½ years in Security Forces. During that time, he served in over 25 countries and became an Afghanistan War Veteran during "Enduring Freedom", and later as he served in support of "Iraqi Freedom".

After serving his country, Travis returned to his home town and began his career with the Leesburg Police Department. He has served the citizens of Leesburg for nearly 9 years and, during that time, has been selected as "Outstanding Officer of the Year" during five of those years. He has successfully held several assignments at LPD, and he currently serves as a road patrol corporal and assistant SWAT team leader where he also instructs in a multitude of disciplines. He has assisted our neighboring agencies and their training cadres on several occasions.

In the past year Travis has volunteered his time for many worthy causes. The American Cancer Society, Dragon Boat Program for at risk youth, and community outreach to include: painting homes in the Carver Heights area of Leesburg and feeding/helping the homeless and less fortunate are just a few of his endeavors. He was recently on the cover of Style magazine for participating in a "Pay it Forward" campaign. Travis positively impacts our community through his work, faith, and compassion.

Travis has been recognized multiple times in 2014 for going above and beyond the call of duty. His tireless investigations as a member of the Leesburg PD Vice Unit have led to multiple arrests of violent drug offenders, burglars, and armed robbery suspects. In one case in March, while off-duty, Travis spotted a serial burglary suspect in Fruitland Park. He called in the suspect's whereabouts and stayed within eyesight of him as he travelled into Leesburg. When the suspect became aware he was being followed he tried to flee, crashing his motorcycle in the process. Travis was able to safely apprehend the suspect and wait for on-duty officers.

It is particularly of merit to note that Travis was selected as Leesburg Police Officer of the year by his peers. His impeccable work ethic, contagious attitude, and commitment to community service make him a great choice for the Service Above Self Award. His professional and personal endeavors reflect great credit upon himself, the Leesburg Police Department, and the City of Leesburg



OUTSTANDING OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

Jim Dunagan

Eric Lamoreaux

2014 MONTHLY SERVICE AWARDS

Pamela Porter

Cheryl Raiford

Lisa Carter

Lisa Carter

Melyssa Lopez

Madelyn Riancho

Doranna Hout

Lynnn Kyndall

All Dispatchers

Kaleen Torres

Sarah Oxendine

Cheryl Raiford

Jim Dunagan

Amanda Douglass

Mike Howard

Jon Graver

Travis Whitley

Mark Johnson

Corey Lynch

Ed Lorentzen

Ryan Abston

Darrell Blanton

Travis Whitley

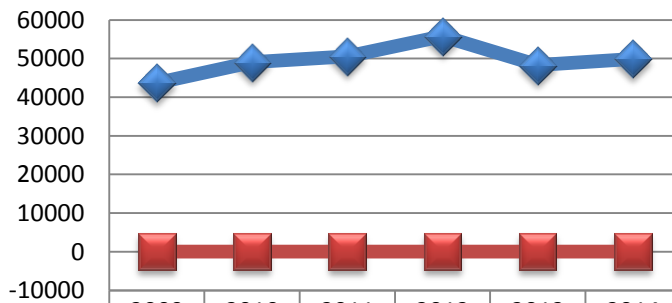
Joshua Copeland



CALLS FOR SERVICE

CAD Events and Police Responses

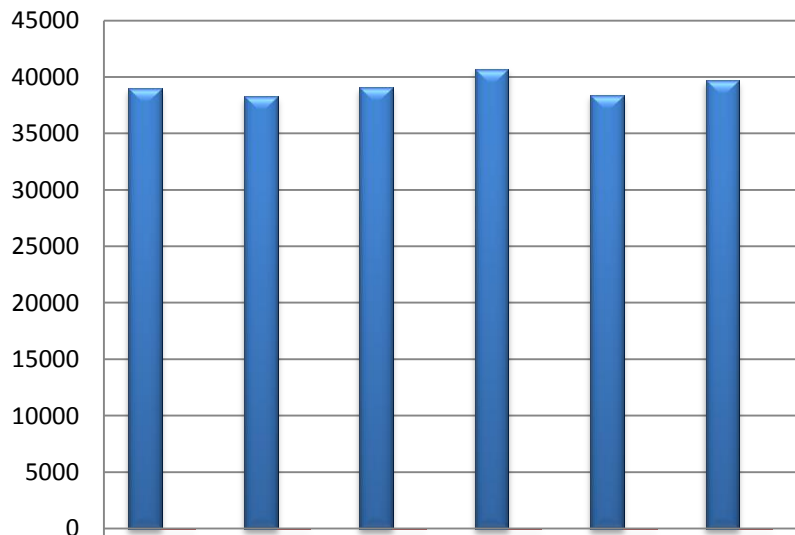
CAD EVENTS



CAD Events are the total sum of all activity within the agency. These events may include some routine administrative activity as well as actual police responses to public requests for service. Increases or decreases in CAD Events do not necessarily indicate a change in police activity.

Calls for Service

Calls for Service measures actual police activity, whether a response to assist the public or investigative and enforcement activity self-initiated by an officer. Calls for service is a much more accurate measure of officer activity than counting all events in CAD.



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Service Calls	38981	38282	39087	40733	38419	39741
% Change	2%	-2%	2%	4%	-6%	3%



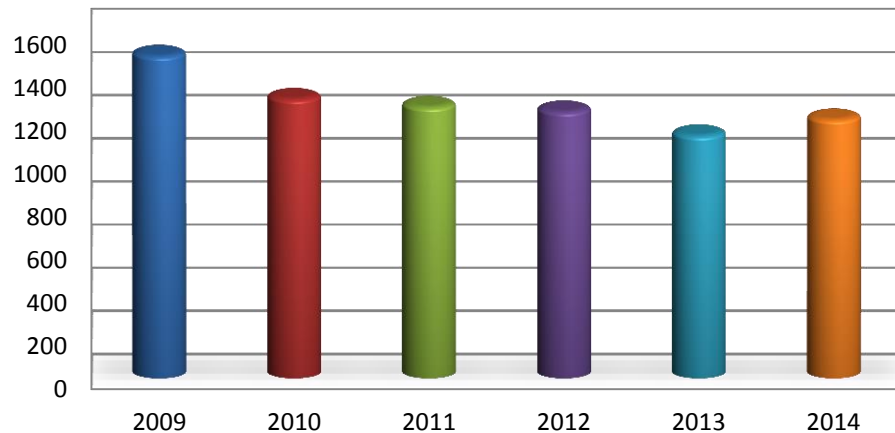
Part I Crimes

Summary Offense Data

PART ONE CRIMES

Homicide
Rape
Robbery
Aggravated Assault
Burglary
Larceny
Vehicle Theft
Arson
All Hate Crimes

PART I CRIMES



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Crimes	1493	1293	1256	1235	1124	1198

The Uniform Crime Reports are published by the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of over 18,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, federal, and other law enforcement agencies who voluntarily report data on crimes brought to their attention. Since 1930, the FBI has administered the UCR Program. The program's primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. However, over the years, UCR data have become one of the country's leading social indicators. Criminologists, sociologists, legislators, municipal planners, the media, and other students of criminal justice use the data for varied research and planning purposes.

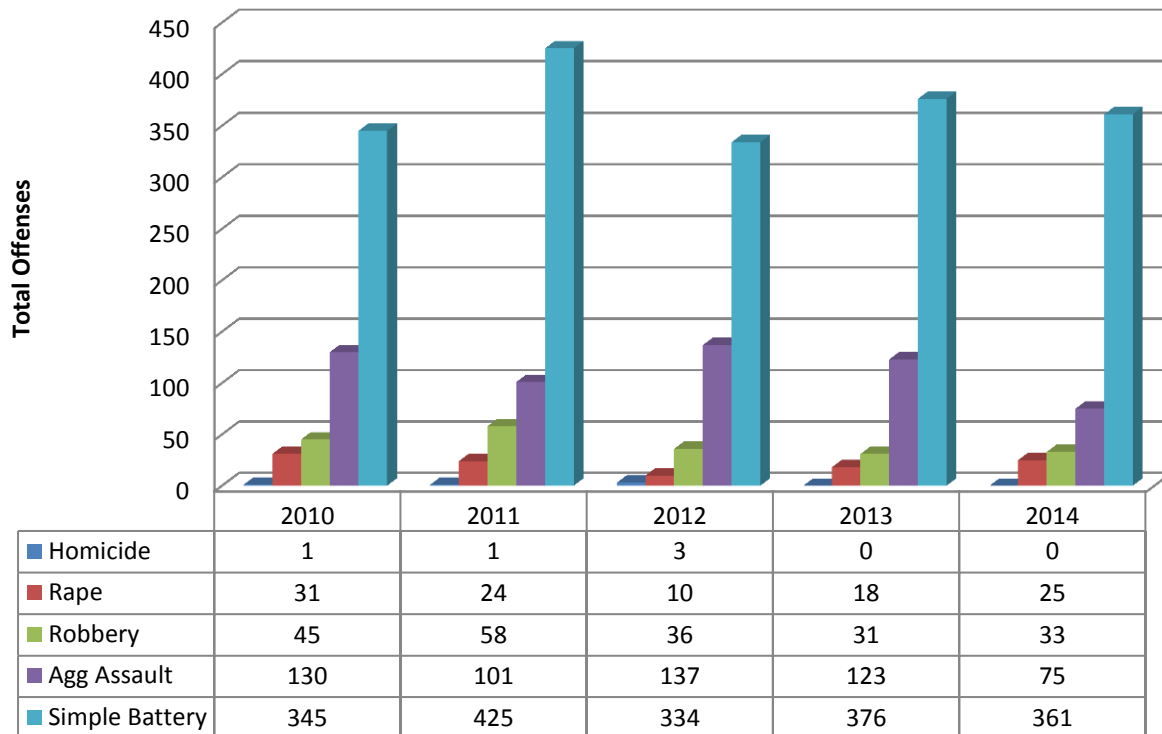
Because Part I Crimes are summary counts only, the data cannot be used for comprehensive crime analysis nor should it be used to compare one jurisdiction to another. However, UCR data can be used very effectively to analyze trends in overall criminal activity to assess how social, economic and other factors affect crime. Trend analysis is most effective for long-term, strategic planning. Analyzing the trends found in UCR data allows agencies to assess overall enforcement and crime prevention efforts by looking at the big picture.

In 2014, the City of Leesburg experienced a 6.6% increase in Part I Crimes. While violent crimes were down 10% from 2013, property crimes, including fraud offenses not counted in Part I Crimes, were up 13%. The greatest increase in property crimes was in burglaries and thefts.



Violent Crimes

Violent Crimes



As indicated above, violent crimes include Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault/Battery, and Simple Battery. In 2014, aggravated assault and battery offenses decreased by an unprecedented 39% while other violent offenses saw only slight increases or decreases. Aggravated assault and battery offenses are those where either a weapon is used or the offense results in serious bodily injury to the victim.

Law enforcement officers have known for many years that traffic enforcement is an effective tool for detecting criminal activity as officers are trained and learn to look beyond the stop. The department continues to use crime data as a part of its crime prevention and response strategy. By mapping and analyzing criminal activity, projecting where activity may occur or re-occur, and developing effective patrol and investigative strategies, we aim to limit opportunities for crime to happen. This targeted “intelligence led” approach requires a progressive view that all criminal behavior is potentially a symptom of a larger problem. All criminal activity or community concerns, no matter how small, may become focal points for a targeted police/community response. Crime adversely affects the whole community not just the “hot spot” or a few pockets where it may occur most often. The intelligence led approach to crime prevention and management offers law enforcement agencies the opportunity to maximize the use of available resources.

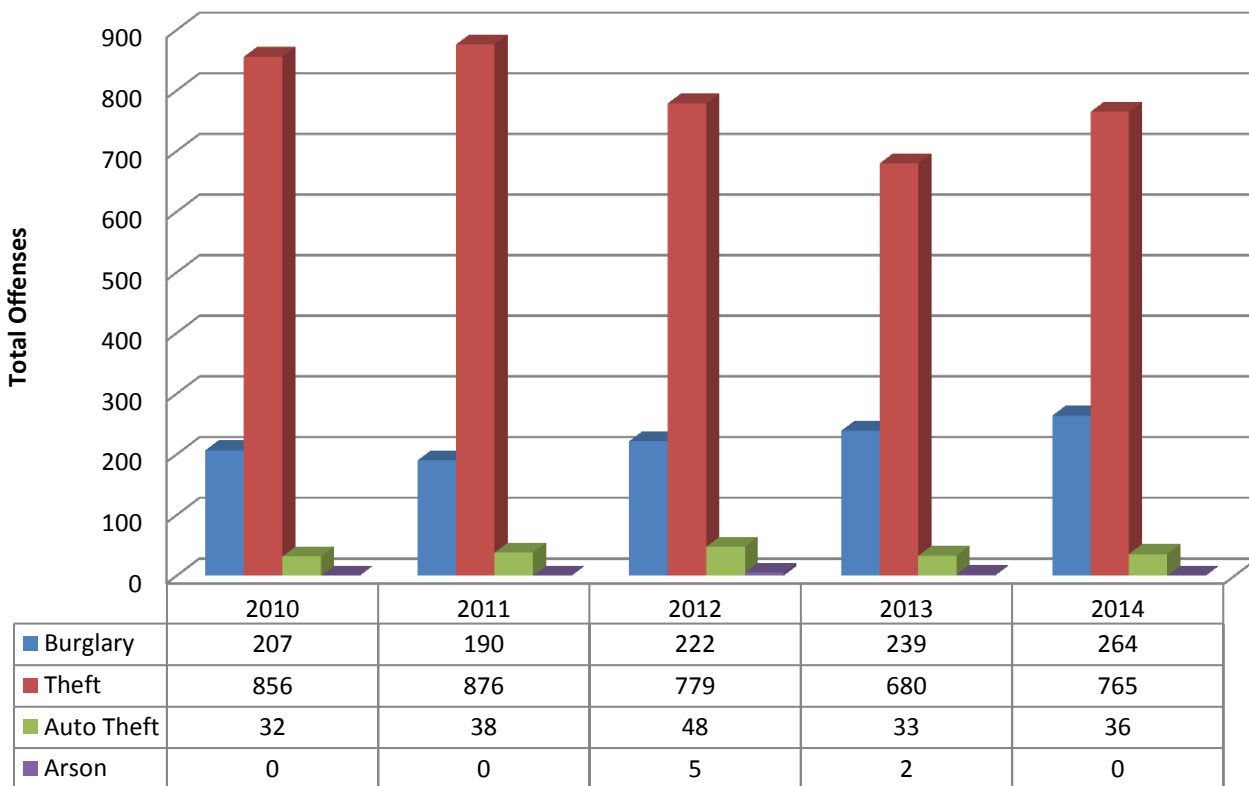


Property Crimes

Property crimes include all crimes involving criminal activity wherein the property owner suffered a loss of property or a decrease in the value of the property which resulted from a crime. Some of these crimes include fraud, burglary, grand theft, auto theft, and arson. This report does not give a complete accounting of all crimes; however, it does provide a point of reference that one may review to identify the most costly property losses as well as those occurring most frequently.

A total of 1,308 property crimes were reported in 2014, which represents a 13% increase in reported crimes from the previous year. The majority of this increase was in residential burglary and auto burglary offenses. Unfortunately, many of the auto burglaries, where there was a 68% increase over 2013, involved unlocked vehicles. For this reason the department continues to emphasize the importance of securing homes, vehicles and other property through public service announcements and crime prevention measures. Many property crimes can be prevented through education and simple preventative steps both at home and work.

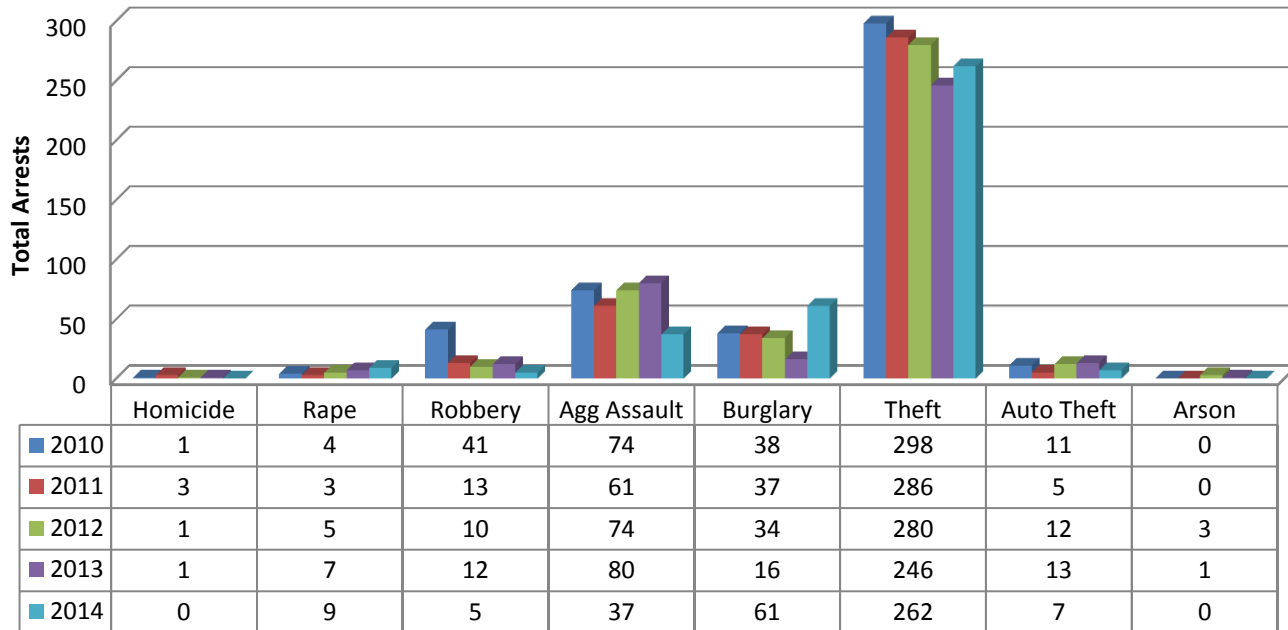
Property Crimes





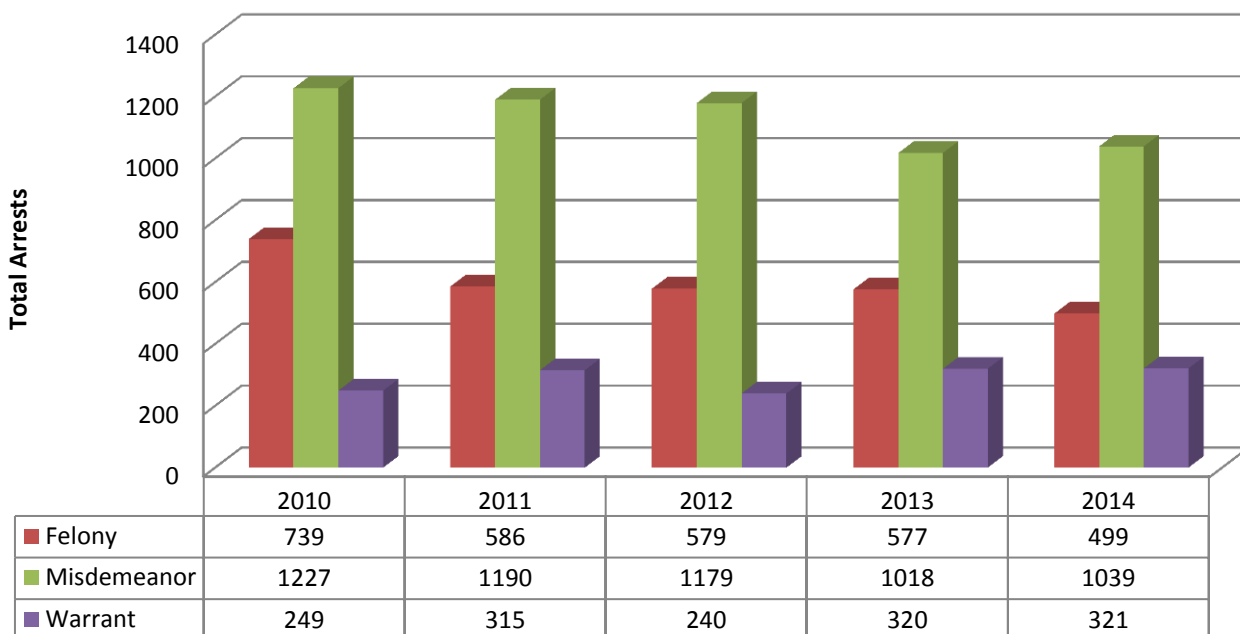
Criminal Arrests

Part I Arrests



The Part I Arrests chart above corresponds to the Part I Crimes reported to UCR to show the number of physical arrests made in each reporting category. The chart below provides comparison data for the number of felony and misdemeanor arrests, and arrests by warrants issued by other agencies.

Arrest by Type

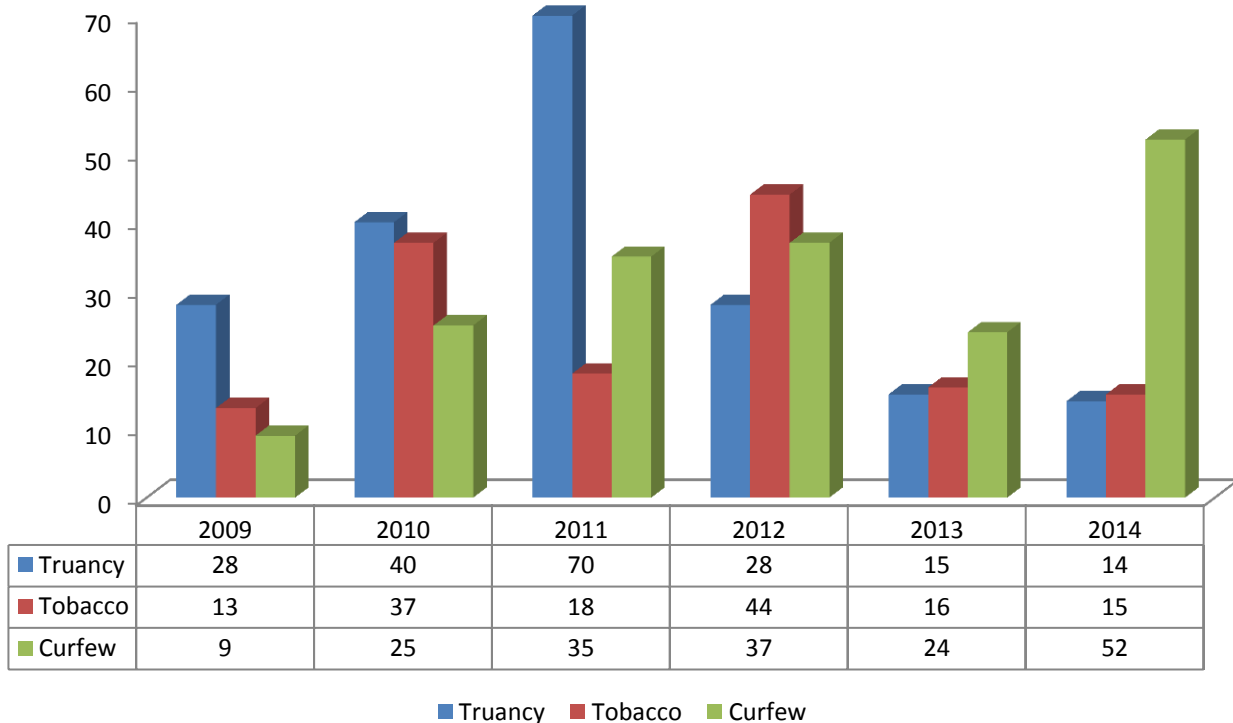




Non-Criminal Enforcement

The specific cases indicated below are selectively enforced and specifically tracked in response to citizen concerns that were expressed to department personnel in combination with proactive policing in known problem locations. Specific non-criminal enforcement involves status offenders who have not committed a crime per say. Nevertheless, by focusing on youthful offenders who commit them, we become an important part of the early intervention process and a factor for behavior modification that helps to minimize the possibility of status offenders becoming a larger societal problem.

In an effort to promote a safer environment for juveniles, the City of Leesburg codified section 15-14 Youth Protection Ordinance in 1999. This ordinance prohibits minors from remaining, lingering, staying, congregating, moving about, wandering, or strolling in any public or semi-public place in the city, either on foot or in or upon any vehicle, during restricted hours.





Police Services

PATROL DIVISION

"The Backbone of the Department"



The Patrol Division is the backbone of the department. The division is comprised of four patrol teams, specialized units and an administration section. Each of the four patrol teams is directed by a sergeant with the assistance of a working corporal along with eight officers. The administration section is comprised of a major; who is the division commander, and two lieutenants who serve as watch commanders, and provide other administrative and supervisory assistance as needed.

To better handle the unique demands of modern-day law enforcement, the Patrol Division is enhanced by several specialized units, including the Traffic Unit, S.W.A.T. team, Canine (K-9) Unit, and the Vice/Narcotics Unit.

The Patrol Division is tasked with responding to emergency calls for assistance, detection and prevention of crime, traffic crash investigations, traffic enforcement, business checks, and proactive neighborhood patrols. The division helps prevent crime and provides a visible presence to the public, instilling confidence and security within the community. Patrol officers are the first responders who take charge of situations that require immediate action to resolve or mitigate safety issues or concerns.



In 2014 the Patrol Division continued its problem oriented policing style utilizing intelligence led responses to crime trends within the community, which allowed the department to be more responsive to community needs. Additionally, community partnerships, flexibility, and use of intelligence and crime data remain vital to the Patrol Division's relentless crime fighting activities.

TRAFFIC UNIT

During organizational restructuring, the Traffic Unit was expanded from three officers to five to better respond to the community's traffic enforcement needs. The unit is staffed with one sergeant, who provides supervision and direction for the unit. Unit members specialize in traffic crash investigation, traffic homicide investigation, traffic enforcement, police escorts, and special event planning that requires carefully coordinated traffic control measures.

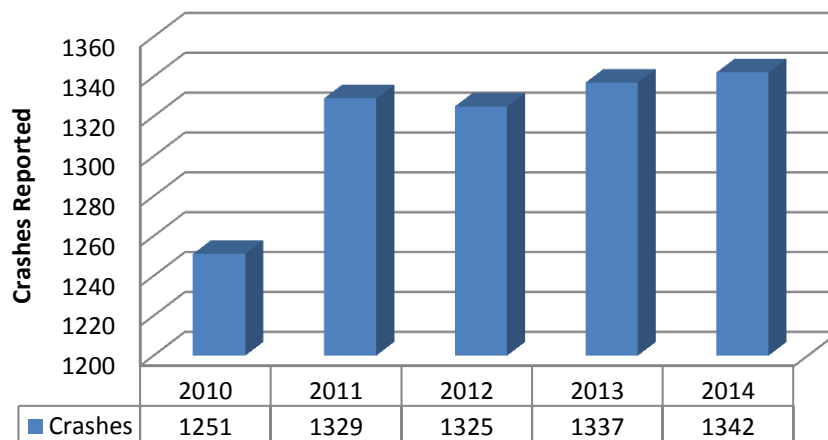
One of riskiest actions of daily life for people is driving. Numerous citizens perish every day on America's roads. The Florida Department Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has identified five traffic problem groups that currently exist within the jurisdiction of City of Leesburg. Within its subgroup of 94 Florida cities with a population between 15,000-74,999, Leesburg ranked in the top 20 percentile of the following traffic problem categories: impaired driving, motorcycle related crashes, bicycle related crashes, aggressive driving, and crashes relates to drivers age 65 and over. The expanded Traffic Unit will specifically address these dangers.



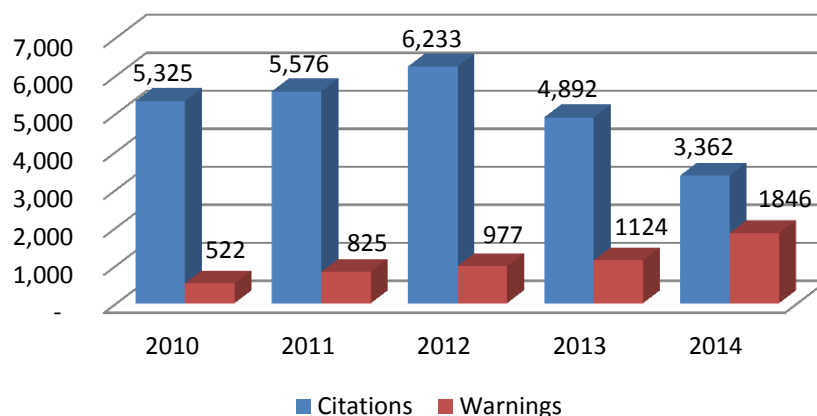
To enhance patrol enforcement activities, unit officers utilize some unmarked vehicles, which provide a semi-covert response to complaints in residential areas as well as improved enforcement targeting aggressive drivers on the highways. Traffic enforcement continues to a top priority for the department in an effort to make our streets and community a safer place.

During 2014, members of the Leesburg Police Department investigated 1,029 traffic crashes. 640, or 62%, of these investigations were investigated by the Traffic Unit, which was staffed with only three officers for the majority of the year, demonstrating the vital role of the unit within the department. In terms of uniform traffic citations, there were 3,362 issued department-wide. This amounts to 876 citations issued by the traffic unit or roughly 26%. Finally, the department issued 1,846 written warnings, of which the Traffic Unit issued 450 or approximately 24%.

Traffic Crashes



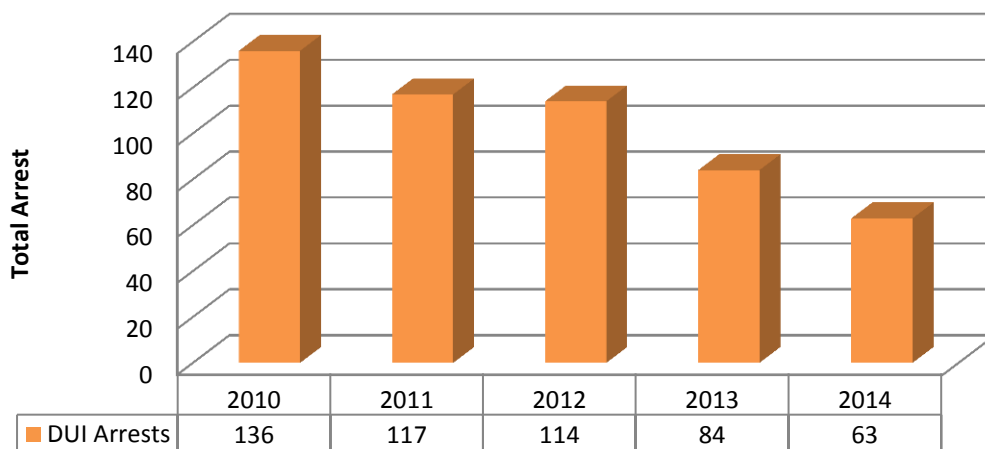
Citations and Written Warnings



Traffic Unit officers receive advanced specialized training in several traffic related subjects, the most important being traffic homicide investigation. The course work qualifies them to investigate all traffic crashes that occur inside the city of Leesburg where there was a loss of life. During 2014, the unit investigated four traffic fatalities and conducted six preliminary traffic homicide investigations. Preliminary traffic homicide investigations are defined as crashes that cause severe injury with potential for death. Any time a person involved passes away within 30 days of the crash, it is considered a traffic fatality and a traffic homicide investigation must be conducted.

Additionally, the Traffic Unit has demonstrated its commitment to improving the community by participating in several projects throughout the year. The unit participated in Bikefest, parades, and various marches in Leesburg. Throughout the year the unit coordinated special efforts such as Click it or Ticket, the Law Enforcement Challenge and the DUI Challenge. As a result of their efforts, we were awarded a moving radar unit at no cost from FDOT. The Traffic Unit also attends Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) meetings throughout the year to discuss traffic concerns with other agencies including Lake County Traffic Operations and the Florida Department of Transportation.

DUI Arrests



S.W.A.T. OPERATIONS

The Leesburg Police Department was the first law enforcement agency in Lake County to establish a fully functional S.W.A.T. team. Since that time, the team has been tasked with the resolution of all critical incidents within the city, and they serve as ancillary support for all other units/divisions within the department.



In 2014, the S.W.A.T. team deployed, on several occasions, addressing high risk incidents within the city limits. During normal patrol operations, S.W.A.T. team members responded to numerous calls for service, directly involving firearms and other dangerous weapons. The training, tactics, and equipment employed by these specially trained officers greatly diminish the likelihood of injury to a citizen, suspect, or officer. Having highly trained, equipped, and motivated officers patrolling the city at all times provides the community with a more efficient and effective police force. The Leesburg S.W.A.T. team prides itself on the local, national, and international recognition it has received and earned during its tenure.

S.W.A.T. TRAINING



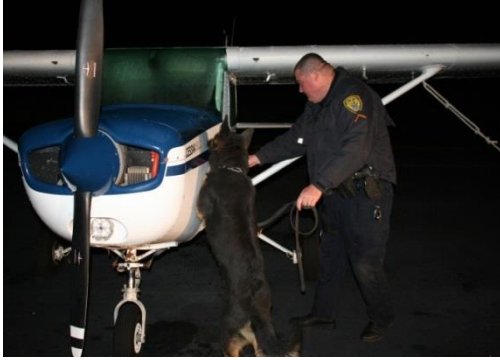
Continued training and networking is a key component to the team's operational success. During the 2014 training cycle, our training cadre provided hostage rescue training for our members, as well as members of the Clermont Police Department's S.W.A.T. team. These strong relationships not only provide Leesburg citizens with better trained officers, but with asset assistance during times of need. We continue to enhance these relationships with our counterparts within the tactical community.

In late 2014, our team was called upon to assist the Eustis Police Department's S.W.A.T. team with serving high risk search warrant, which resulted in the safe and successful arrest of multiple suspects along with the recovery of narcotics and firearms. All of our communities benefit from cohesive interaction in training and real world collaboration.

The S.W.A.T. team conducts monthly in-service training, in addition to any outside agency training the operators may receive. The team maintains a highly skilled instructional cadre who also provide department level training for all officers within the agency. The instructors follow the most current trends and requirements available within the tactical community. The S.W.A.T. team commander and team leaders attend the annual Florida S.W.A.T. Association (FSA) conference and maintain a close watch on the guidelines established by the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA). All team operators are members of the FSA and NTOA alike. In addition to the "in-house" training program, the team conducts training with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure cohesive relationships and continuity within our local operational community. Training may include, but is not limited to hostage rescue, waterborne operations, dynamic building entries, vehicle assaults, linear assaults, firearms training, rappelling, and physical fitness testing.



CANINE UNIT



The police canine, often referred to as a "K-9", is a dog that is specially trained to assist police and other law enforcement personnel in their work. Common uses of police canines include narcotics detection, tracking, article searches, and in some cases suspect apprehension. The most commonly used breeds are the German shepherd and Labrador retriever. Their value has been recognized to such an extent that there are thousands utilized in various police agencies throughout the United States and around the world.

The Leesburg Police Department Canine Unit consists of four K-9 teams. Each team is comprised of a certified handler and a Labrador retriever. All canines utilized by our agency are trained in narcotic detection, tracking, and evidence recovery.

CANINE TRAINING

The Leesburg Police Department K-9 Unit trains on an on-going basis. While the majority of training hours are conducted within the city limits, they occasionally train with surrounding department's K-9 teams.



Recent court rulings have determined that K-9 Teams in the State of Florida must complete a lengthy certification process and maintain a record of their training hours. All four of K-9 teams are certified by the National Police Canine Association for Narcotics Detection. The certification process is a demanding and thorough assessment of the team's knowledge, skills, and abilities. Once successfully completed, the training does not end; it is an ongoing process that teaches new skills and sharpens old ones. The training includes all aspects of the team's capabilities as well as "real world" scenarios to evaluate their proficiency. During 2014, the unit conducted 763 hours of documented training. Much of the training is conducted locally. By doing so, the department is able minimize training expenses.

General Deployments		Narcotics Deployments		Drug Seizures	
Tracks	7	Vehicle Deployments	569	Cannabis	573g
Article Searches	5	School Deployments	3	Cocaine	21g
Arrests	133			Methamphetamine	10g
Criminal Citations	31			Heroin	.4g
Traffic Citations	330				
Other Citations	31				

The total value of drugs seized was approximately \$8,416.00. Additionally, the unit seized \$4,030.00 in cash, two vehicles, and one firearm. The total value of all property recovered or seized by the unit was over \$14,000.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



The Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for all felony investigations and criminal intelligence information. In addition to felony investigations, the division also investigates missing person, domestic violence, and child/elder abuse cases.

The division consists of a lieutenant, who manages the division, a detective sergeant, a detective corporal, and seven detectives.

In 2014, the division investigated numerous high profile criminal incidents as well as others that did not get media attention. These crimes vary in nature from frauds, thefts, sex offenses, assaults, and the most serious; homicide.

Approximately 1,227 cases were assigned to detectives for investigation. Of these cases, 993 were felony investigations, 39 misdemeanor investigations, and 195 other investigations such as missing persons, and unclassified abuse and fraud offenses. This represented a slight increase from the previous year.

The division currently has ten unresolved homicides, of which two date back to the 1970's. Detectives are diligently working to solve these cases and have developed new leads in some of them. We understand it's never too late to solve a case, particularly homicides.

UNSOLVED HOMICIDES

Leavell Daniels
Velma Champagne
Chris Taylor
Mayola Houser
Jeffrey Brown

Ernest Heggs
Josephine Williams
Ronald Banks
Harvell Golden
Wilson George

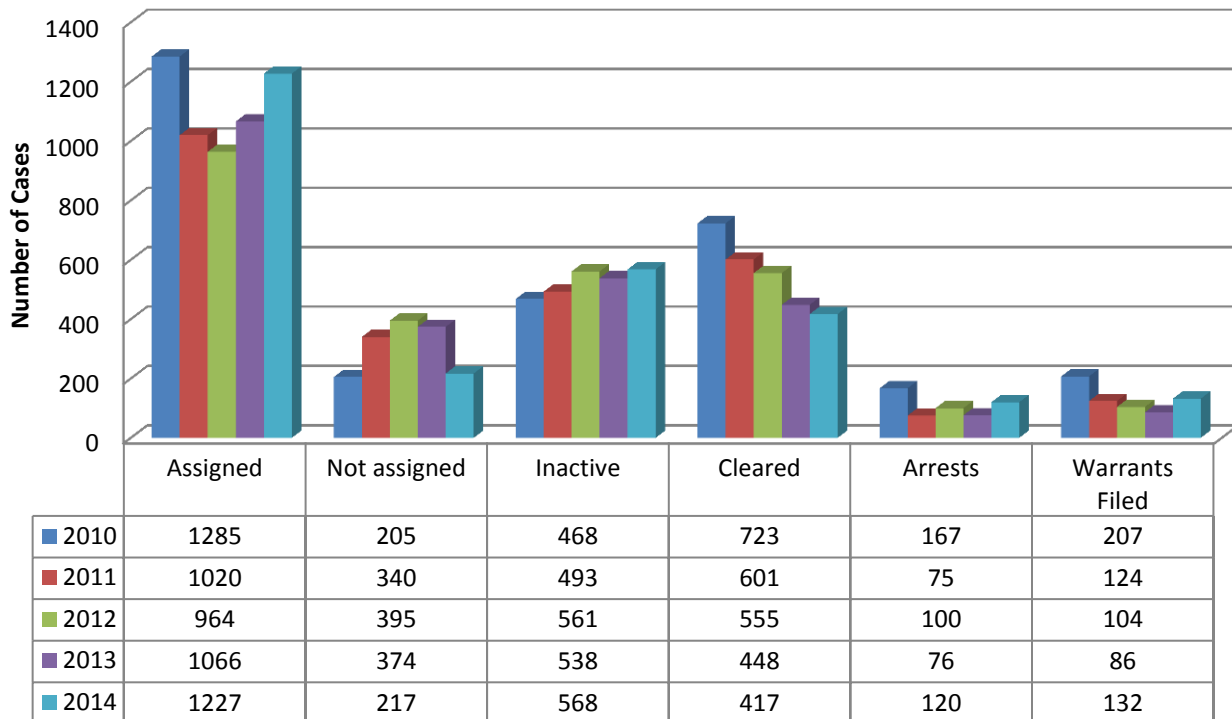


Anyone with information regarding the above listed homicides may call the Leesburg Police Department at 352-787-2121. We do not want your name, only the information.



Tips may also be reported to CrimeLine at 800-423-tips. Any information that leads to an arrest of the perpetrator may make you eligible for up to a \$5000.00 reward. You don't have to give your name. All we want is the information. You can remain anonymous.

Case Management



PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE

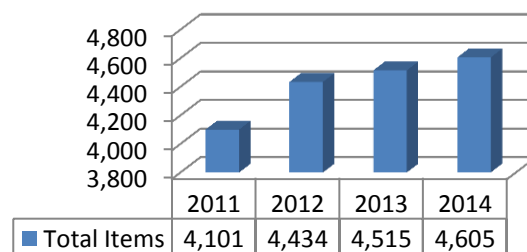
Evidence and property taken from a crime scene during an investigation are stored in the Property and Evidence Section. Probably the greatest factor in a successful prosecution is the integrity of the evidence in how it is handled and preserved. If evidence is not properly packaged and documented at the time a police officer collects it at a crime scene, and if the property is not stored properly or the "chain of custody" is compromised, criminals may go free, putting our community and its citizens at risk.

Seized property stored by the Property and Evidence Section comes in many shapes and sizes. Items can be small as a human hair or large as a car. Approximately 4,605 items of property or evidence were submitted to the section in 2014. These items are preserved from the date of submission, through the investigation and analysis, to the time of return to the owner or the item's disposal. When necessary, the evidence technicians also testify in court.

Aside from the expertise required to handle various type of evidence from firearms, to biohazardous substances, section personnel also must be aware of all pending and new legislation that affects the handling of evidence, and any new technology, such as warehouse management and bar code tracking.

When a case is over and the property is no longer needed, every attempt is made to return items to the rightful owner. If the owner can't be found, the property is disposed of through public auction, donated to local charities, retained for department use or destroyed in accordance with applicable policies and laws.

Property and Evidence

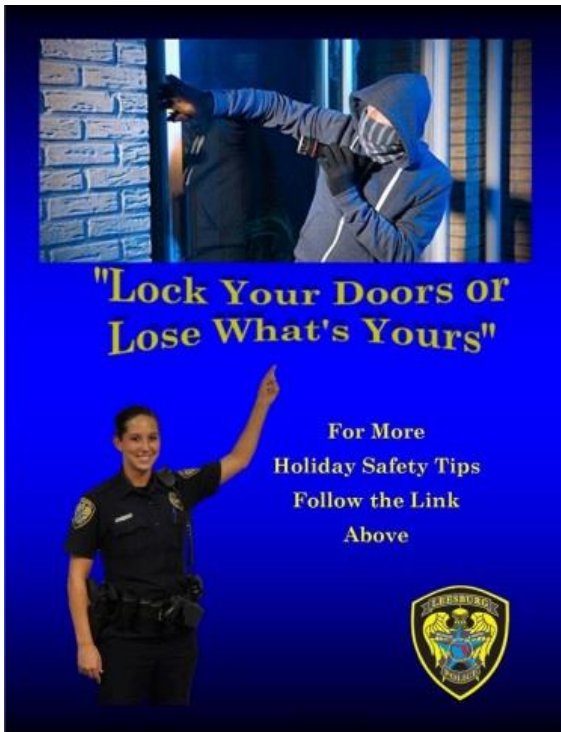




Support Services

The Support Services Division has the mission of performing support activities for the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Divisions. The division consists of the Community Relations Section, Communications Section, Records Section, and Code Enforcement Unit.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS – CRIME PREVENTION



During the 2014 calendar year, the community services section was renamed to the Community Relations / Crime Prevention Section. In 2014, the section conducted numerous presentations for local businesses, schools, churches, civic groups, and community action teams in and around the Leesburg area. The presentations included, but were not limited to crime prevention, personal safety, neighborhood watch, active shooter preparedness, child safety, and crime mitigation within rental communities.

The Community Relations / Crime Prevention Section consists of a sergeant, an officer, five volunteer COP officers (Citizens on Patrol), and eight school crossing guards. The sergeant and officer divide their time between community relations and crime prevention efforts. The department currently has one certified crime prevention practitioner, and one certified CPTED practitioner (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). This training has proven itself effective in community problem solving and crime mitigation.

The section continues to work with the established neighborhood watch groups within the community. By networking with a variety of community groups, the Community Relations sergeant has helped keep the public apprised of topics related to current crime trends and various city events. These learning opportunities include training about a variety of fraud and scams, which are major problems victimizing much of our elder population. The sergeant is also responsible for establishing new neighborhood watch groups while maintaining cohesive relationships with the pre-existing groups within our communities.



“Building Community Partnerships”

The Police Department’s commitment to community involvement also includes, but is not limited to the following events and activities:

Fingerprinting Citizens
Junior Achievement
Black Heritage Festival
Participation in the MLK Community Celebrations
Leesburg Chamber of Commerce
Participated in Leesburg Halloween & Christmas Programs
Christmas Bicycle Giveaway
“Knitters for Kids”
Bank robbery prevention classes for local banks
Junior Athletic Games (JAG)
Safety Expo
Alzheimer’s & Dementia Registry
Safety talks & tours of local Cub Scout Packs
Career Day
Neighborhood Watch Program
Breast Cancer Awareness
Crime prevention presentations for local businesses
Presentations to the Lake County Senior Center on elderly fraud
Presentations on Internet safety for teenagers
“If I Were a Thief”
Special Olympics Torch Run
Relay for Life
Shop with a Cop



Bicycle Give-away / Shop with a Cop



Thanks to the generosity of several community donors, the department was able to continue the Christmas Bicycle Give-away program in 2014. Charitable giving enabled the department to purchase and give away over 60 new bicycles to some of the area’s most needy children and families. The program has exceeded beyond 20 years and has provided hundreds of bicycles to area under privileged children. The program has evolved from a time when police officers repaired and cleaned abandoned and unclaimed bicycles. Now the department purchases new bicycles from a local retailer. Recipients who receive bicycles are selected from a list of the area’s neediest children. The dedicated work and charity of numerous officers and citizens is what makes the program successful.

The program continues to thrive mainly because of the financial support provided by citizens, groups, civic organizations, local charities, and businesses within the community. Tax payer dollars have never been used to support this initiative.

We recognize the role of law enforcement exceeds its traditional boundaries of protecting public safety; it also carries the responsibility and duty of being a good neighbor. This is just another way we enhance Leesburg’s quality of life.

Junior Athletic Games



The Leesburg Police Department Community Services Section held its annual Junior Athletic Games (JAG) in April of 2014 at the Carver Middle School. This unique program gives the area's elementary school students a chance to compete in eight different events. The students participated in the following events: football throw, softball throw, soccer kick, 50 yard dash for girls, 50 yard dash for boys, 100 yard dash for girls, 100 yard dash for boys and the Half Mile Run (4th & 5th grade).

The students were taught principles of good sportsmanship and given the opportunity to apply them in friendly competition. Students placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd received medals for their accomplishments with the remaining receiving a letter of participation in recognition of their effort. The department also gave each competitor a t-shirt to commemorate their involvement in the event. Many view this event instrumental to helping mold strong bodies, minds, and build esteem, while exemplifying good sportsmanship. As usual, the overall school winner received a trophy.

Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with a Cop is a new initiative started by the department in 2014 to give citizens an opportunity to get to know the men and women of law enforcement at the Leesburg Police Department. There are no agendas or speeches, just an opportunity to sit down with officer and enjoy a good conversation and over a cup of hot coffee.



The first two Coffee with a Cop events were hosted by Bloom's Café downtown and McDonald's across from the Lake Square Mall. Both were a huge success and the events will continue into 2015. Events such as Coffee with a Cop afford officers and citizens the opportunity to discuss community concerns or just "shoot the bull" in a friendly, relaxed environment.

CITIZENS ON PATROL (COPS)

The COP unit is an integral part of the community services section. They assist the section with everything from traffic control to fingerprinting children at community events. During 2014, the COP unit documented over 1,400 hours of time and service to the citizens of Leesburg logging over 15,000 miles patrolling our neighborhoods and businesses. Considering there are only five volunteers within this unit, it is extremely impressive that they were able to donate so much of their time to the community. Without the support of the COP unit, we simply wouldn't be able to provide the current level of service we provide. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by the division and department alike!

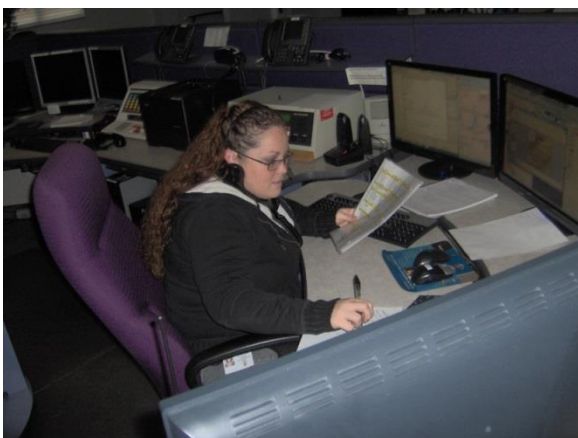
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Another equally important entity within the community service section is the crossing guard unit. They are a part-time unit tasked with the safety of Leesburg's most valuable asset, children. Crossing guards can be seen working throughout the school year at Leesburg's busiest intersections, ensuring the safety of the children traveling to and from their respective school. The crossing guards take great pride in their positions and are truly dedicated to the safety of our children, and to the betterment of our community.



An extra crossing guard was added at Oak Park Middle/Leesburg Elementary School this year, and the Florida Department of Transportation added additional signage and road striping to enhance safety within both school zones. The police department also met with school officials on several occasions to mitigate traffic hazards during the school year.

COMMUNICATIONS

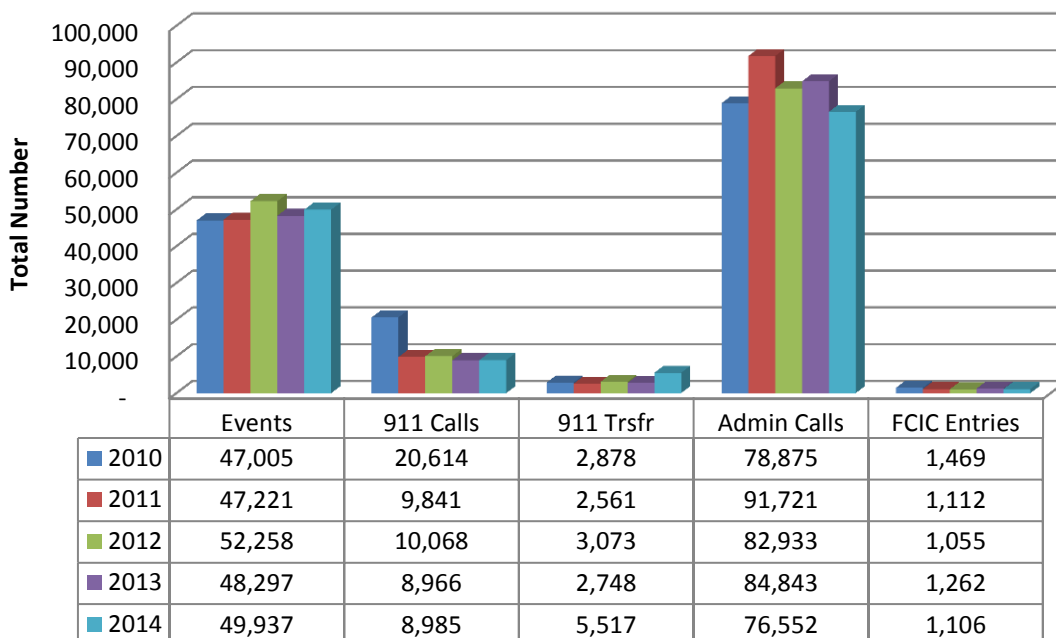


The Communications Section has experienced many changes primarily dealing with technology and state communications officer certification requirements, which have all been successfully incorporated into the section; but the most compelling need is for fully qualified and capable staff to answer when the public calls. This is our first line of defense against crime and also provides for other service needs.

A total of 154,882 telephone calls came into the communications center. These calls consisted of 911 calls, TDD test calls, and administrative calls. Additionally, the section handled 49,937 police call

events, which may or may not have resulted from a telephone call but required a communications officer to dispatch a police officer. There were 5,345 hours of training and instruction accomplished during 2014. The section is a very important link to maintaining the department's high quality service. This is not a comprehensive accounting of all that they do but only a snapshot into the world of our call center.

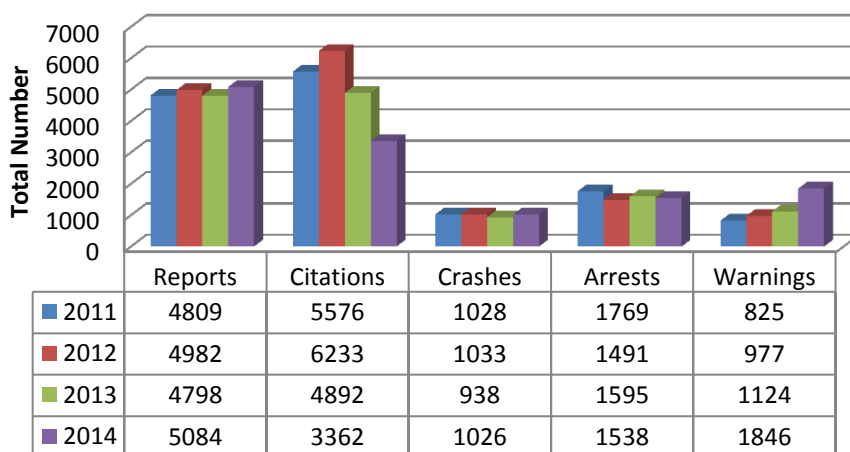
Communications



RECORDS

The Records Section is staffed with a supervisor, two full-time clerical assistants, and one office specialist. The section provides a host of records management services ranging from data entry of traffic crash reports and uniform traffic citations to quality control of police incident reports. They provide a variety of other services to both the public and internal personnel, including fulfilling public records requests. In 2014, the section processed 5,084 incident reports, 1,026 traffic crash reports, 3,362 traffic tickets, 1,595 criminal arrest reports, and 3,844 investigative supplements. The section also served 5,631 citizen walk-ins and accepted 1,557 subpoenas for court appearances. Additionally, the Records Section handles citizen requests for finger printing and local police record checks. Staff members attended a total of 98 hours of continuing educational training in 2014. Training included a variety of topics to include proper records management, Uniform Crime Reporting, and incident report processing procedures.

Records



CODE ENFORCEMENT

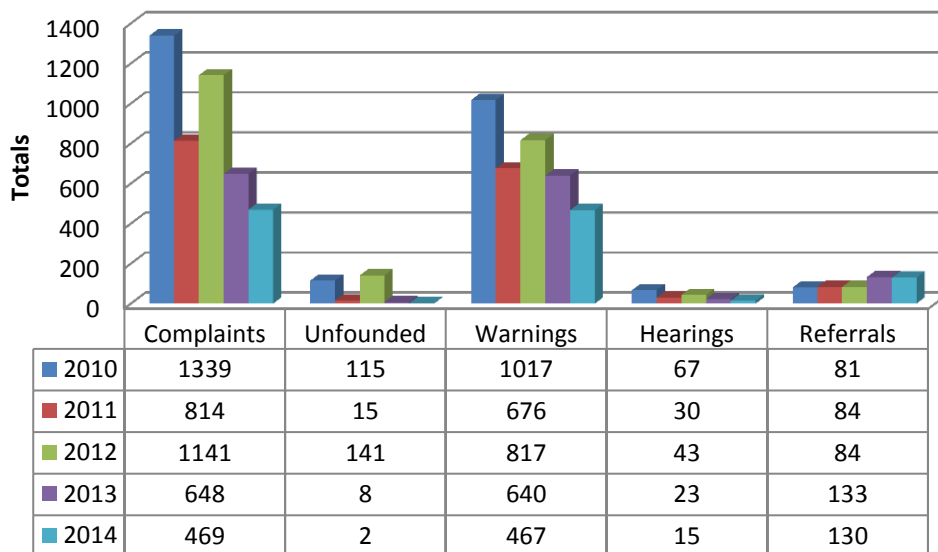


We have continued with great success in working with lending institutions through the Abandoned Property Registry and a nationwide property preservation clearing house. By working with these entities we have been able to locate responsible parties for properties without clear ownership. Although there is still much to be done we are seeing a state wide increase in property values. While our Code Enforcement Unit has been short on man power this year we have tried to maintain a high level of activity.

During 2014, the city of Leesburg adopted the International Property Maintenance Code. This is a proven standard throughout North America for the past decade. It will address commercial along with residential and help the city to achieve a high level of care without an increase in cost of standard maintenance. A series of Public Service Announcements and other forms of public education of this ordinance will be provided to our citizens.

We achieve more through education of the city ordinances and working along with our citizens. Together we make our community a safer and more enjoyable place to live.

Code Enforcement



In 2014 the Code Enforcement Unit received 469 complaints, of which two were determined to be unfounded. 467 warnings were sent to various property owners and 15 cases were presented to the special magistrate. Additionally, the section referred 130 cases to outside agencies.



Inside LPD

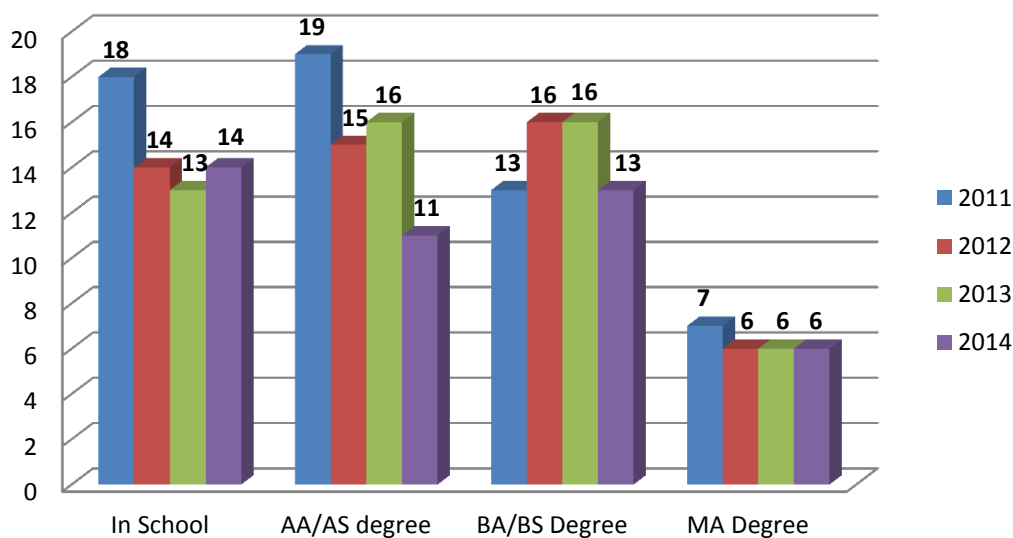
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and training are highly regarded qualities within our organizational culture. It is the foundation of professionalism and one of the driving forces behind all successful organizations - the bedrock on which to build whatever the mind conceives, that once earned can never be seized or forfeited. Education and training promotes a greater awareness, hampers narrow mindedness, and motivates consideration for other points of view. It is a light of reason, guiding consensus and paving the rough crossroads to greater understanding. It equips humanity with ingenuity and better judgement to make the tough decisions that potentially affect everyone.

As proof of our organizational commitment to education, we strive to make accommodations whenever possible to anyone willing to make a personal commitment and sacrifice of time and energy to become more learned. In perpetuity, no one can convincingly argue against the value of individual professional development such as education and training.



Higher Education



LPD NEWS

There's a New Chief in Town

Robert W Hicks, formerly a captain at Leesburg Police Department, was appointed to replace retiring Chief of Police Bill Chrisman. Chief Hicks was sworn in on August 25, 2014 at city hall by city clerk Betty Richardson with Mayor John Christian standing by.



Chief Hicks is the 12th chief of police since the department was established by city charter in 1923.

Promotions

With a new chief came additional promotion opportunities. Sgt Joe Iozzi was promoted to Lieutenant, Corporal John Daniels to Sergeant, and Senior Officers David Robison and Travis Whitley to Corporal.



Lt Joe Iozzi



Cpl John Daniels



Cpl Travis Whitley



Cpl David Robison

Special Recognition



In May 2014, Sergeant Nick Romanelli joined the ranks of LPD supervisors and commanders who have graduated from the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officer's Course.

Congratulations, Sgt Romanelli!

Retirements

We said farewell to four long-time employees of the department in 2014. Chief Bill Chrisman, Sergeant Shayne Toler, Sergeant Karen Thomas, and Communications Supervisor Delynda Pratt retired from the department in August. A luncheon was held in their honor at the police station.





And a few familiar “old” faces joined us too.

New Faces at LPD

Several new officers and civilian staff joined our ranks in 2014.



Officer Gary Herrero being pinned by his wife, Emily.



Officer John Snow being pinned by his wife, Tara.



Officer Brad Peacock being pinned by his wife, Jennifer.



Comm Officer Tiffany Allen



Comm Officer Alicyn Williams



Clerical Assistant Riley Snavelly



Comm Officer Kristin Williams

And a Little Fun



